

GATES AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Mr Neil R Eisner

OST -2005-22114-14

Asst General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement
U S Department of Transportation
Washington, D C 20590

Dear Mr Eisner,

I was President of the Chamber of Commerce of St Joseph County, Indiana around 1966 when the time act was passed and Indiana decided to go a different way than the surrounding states (Eastern time zone but with no changing of the clock).

Frankly, this has not worked out for various reasons.

In business, with our proximity to Michigan, it is very confusing. In South Bend, Mishawaka, and Elkhart we are under 10 miles to the Michigan line. We sell a considerable number of cars in lower Michigan and these customers are always confused on what the time is in Indiana. I'm sure that merchants could bring more business to South Bend/Mishawaka if the time

were the same as Michigan and at considerably more convenience to the customer.

Many of our employees and customers live in Michigan, and again it is confusing to them to live and do business in two time zones.

Our mayor and councilmen have continually favored Central Time, saying that this is what business prefers. This is not true as evidenced by a recent survey by the Chamber of Commerce that shows that business people in our area prefer Eastern Time. We want to be in synch with our customers and employees. We are not that interested in whether we align with New York or Chicago, we just want to be with the people that live in our area.

So as I see it, there is no downside and a lot to be gained by being on Daylight Saving time in the Eastern Time Zone and changing the clock like other states do.

Thanks and good wishes for success in your work in making this decision. Let's make this decision for the good of all the people.

Van E Gates Chairman

Gates Automotive Group

Van & Bates